

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber having a plurality of voids extending along the fiber axis, comprising the steps of:

preparing ~~[[the]]~~ a preform having a plurality of voids whose cross-sectional areas are uniform along ~~[[its]]~~ the preform axis; and

drawing the optical fiber from ~~[[said]]~~ the preform, wherein ~~a means to measure the drawing step includes obtaining an area fraction of the plurality of voids in the drawn optical fiber, a means to adjust the pressure in said voids of the preform and a means to feedback the measured and performing feedback control of pressure in the plurality of voids based on the obtained area fraction of voids to adjusting means are included.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 11, ~~wherein said means to measure the area fraction of voids~~ the obtaining step comprises the sub steps of:

measuring ~~[[the]]~~ a speed at which the preform is supplied, [[the]] a speed at which the optical fiber is drawn, and the fiber a diameter of the optical fiber during fiber drawing; and

calculating the area fraction of the plurality of voids in said drawn optical fiber from these the measured values, the preform diameter, and the area fraction of the plurality of

voids in the preform, where the preform diameter and the area fraction of the plurality of the voids in the preform are measured before the optical fiber drawing.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 11, wherein ~~said means to measure the area fraction of voids~~ the obtaining step comprises the sub steps of:

measuring ~~[[the]]~~ a speed at which the optical fiber is drawn, ~~the fiber~~ a diameter of the optical fiber, ~~the drawing~~ a tension during drawing, and ~~[[the]]~~ a temperature in a drawing furnace during optical fiber drawing; and

calculating ~~[[the]]~~ an area fraction of the plurality of voids in said drawn optical fiber from ~~these~~ the measured values.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 11, ~~further wherein the preparation step comprises comprising the preprocessing steps of:~~

~~making a preform in a single piece~~ preparing a base material having an axis in a single piece;

boring three or more voids of the plurality of voids in said ~~preform~~ the base material along ~~[[its]]~~ the base material axis; and

cleaning ~~[[the]]~~ surfaces of the ~~preform~~ base material at said plurality of voids; and wherein

~~said drawing step includes a means to prevent contaminants from intruding into said~~ voids.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 14, wherein said boring step comprises the sub steps of:

inserting protruding portions of a boring appliances-appliance into said preform-base material at a temperature above ~~[[the]]~~ a glass softening point; and

pulling out said boring appliances~~the protruding portions~~ from ~~said preform~~ the base material immediately before or after lowering the temperature of said preform.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber which contains a plurality of regions made of a sub mediums-medium whose refractive ~~indices differ~~ index differs from ~~these-that~~ of a main mediums-medium constituting the optical fiber, comprising the steps of:

preparing a preform having a plurality of regions made of a sub medium having mediums whose cross-sectional areas that are constant along the preform axis; and

drawing the optical fiber from said preform,

wherein ~~a means to adjust the~~ the drawing step includes adjusting a holding heating condition through varying in a manner in which at least ~~one of the~~ a temperature of [[the]] a drawing furnace for heating said preform and the-or a time length for the optical fiber to pass the drawing furnace is varied included.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 16, wherein said drawing step further includes ~~a means to measure the~~ obtaining an area fraction of

the plurality of regions made of a sub medium ~~sub-medium regions in the drawn optical fiber,~~
and

~~a means to performing~~ feedback control of the heating condition based on the obtained
~~the measured~~ area fraction of sub-medium regions in the drawn optical fiber to said adjusting
means.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 17,
wherein ~~said means to measure the area fraction of sub-medium regions~~ the obtaining step
comprises the sub steps of:

measuring ~~[[the]]~~ a speed at which the preform is supplied, ~~[[the]]~~ a speed at
which the optical fiber is drawn, and ~~the fiber a~~ diameter of the optical fiber during ~~fiber~~
drawing~~[[;]]~~, and

calculating the area fraction of the plurality of ~~sub-medium~~ regions made of a
sub medium in said drawn optical fiber from ~~these~~ the measured values, the preform diameter,
and the area fraction of the plurality of ~~sub-medium~~ regions made of a sub medium in the
preform,

wherein the preform diameter and the area fraction of the plurality of ~~sub-medium~~
regions made of a sub medium in the preform are measured before ~~fiber~~ the drawing step.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 17,
wherein ~~said means to measure the area fraction of sub-medium regions~~ the step of obtaining
comprises the sub steps of:

measuring ~~[[the]]~~ a speed at which the optical fiber is drawn, ~~the fiber a~~
diameter of the optical fiber, ~~the drawing a~~ tension during drawing, and ~~[[the]]~~ a temperature in
the drawing furnace during fiber-drawing~~[[;]]~~, and

calculating ~~[[the]]~~ an area fraction of the plurality of sub-medium-regions
made of a sub medium in said drawn optical fiber from ~~these~~ the measured values.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 16,
further comprising the preprocessing steps of:

making a preform in a single piece;

boring three or more voids in said preform along ~~[[its]]~~ the preform axis; and

cleaning ~~[[the]]~~ surfaces of the preform at said voids, ~~and wherein said drawing~~
~~step includes a means to prevent contaminants from intruding into said voids.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A method of making an optical fiber according to claim 20,
wherein said boring step comprises the sub steps of:

inserting protruding portions of a boring appliances-appliance into said preform at
a temperature above ~~[[the]]~~ a glass softening point; and

pulling out ~~said boring appliances~~ the protruding portions from said preform
immediately before or after lowering the temperature of said preform.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented-Withdrawn) A method of making an optical fiber having a plurality of voids, comprising the steps of:

closing the voids by heating and fusing an optical fiber selectively at a plurality of portions spaced apart along the fiber axis,

wherein the optical fiber is made by a method according to claim 11.

25. (New) A method of making an optical fiber having a plurality of voids, comprising the steps of:

preparing a preform having a plurality of voids whose cross-sectional area is uniform along the preform axis;

drawing the optical fiber from said preform, wherein the drawing step includes determining an area fraction of the plurality of voids in the drawn optical fiber, and performing a feedback control of a pressure in the plurality of voids based on the determined area fraction; and

closing the plurality of voids by heating and fusing the optical fiber selectively at a plurality of portions spaced apart along the preform axis.